

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 1. (Cancelled).

1 2. (Currently Amended) A mail piece tracking system including:

2 A. one or more servers that perform the operations of:

- 3 i. receiving delivery status information from one or more mail piece
4 delivery companies and linking the mail piece delivery status
5 information with respective user identifiers; and
6 ii. receiving one or more messages from the senders of the respective
7 mail pieces and linking to the delivery status information an
8 attachment consisting of the one or more messages from the senders
9 of the mail pieces; and
10 iii. producing on a user's personal web page listings of the delivery
11 status information for the mail pieces directed to respective users
12 that are associated with the user identifiers; and
13 iv. including links to the respective messages in the listings of the
14 delivery status information allowing the user to perform at least one
15 of: sending or receiving a message, receiving or paying a bill, and
16 verifying information based upon a digital signature ; and

17 B. one or more browsers or client executables through which the respective
18 users associated with the user identifiers access the delivery status
19 information and the links to the respective messages.

1 3. (Withdrawn) A mail piece tracking system including:

2 A. one or more servers for linking mail piece delivery status information with
3 user identifiers, associating with the delivery status information for a
4 given mail piece related transaction information, producing listings of the
5 delivery status information for mail pieces directed to the respective users,
6 and including a link to the transaction information in the listing of the
7 delivery status information;

8 B. one or more browsers or client executables through which the respective
9 users associated with the user identifiers access the delivery status
10 information.

1 4. (Currently Amended) A mail piece tracking system including:

2 A. one or more servers ~~the~~ that perform the operations of:
3 i. receiving delivery status information from one or more mail piece
4 delivery companies and linking the mail piece delivery status
5 information with respective user identifiers;
6 ii. receiving information relating to the contents of the respective mail
7 pieces from the senders of the mail pieces and displaying said
8 information on a user's personal web page and linking to the
9 delivery status information an attachment consisting of the
10 information relating to the contents of the respective mail pieces;
11 iii. producing on said user's personal web page respective listings of
12 the delivery status information for mail pieces directed to respective
13 users that are associated with the user identifiers;-and
14 iv. associating the information relating to the contents of the respective
15 mail pieces with the mail piece delivery status information in the
16 listings; and
17 B. one or more browsers or client executables through which the respective
18 users associated with the user identifiers access the delivery status
19 information and the information relating to the contents of the respective
20 mail pieces.

1 5. – 6. (Cancelled).

1 7. (Withdrawn) A mail piece tracking system including:

2 A. one or more servers for linking mail piece delivery status information with
3 user identifiers producing listings of the delivery status information for

4 mail pieces directed to the respective users, and including in the mail piece
5 delivery status information:
6 i. a sender identifier,
7 ii. a mail type identifier,
8 iii. a delivery service identifier, and
9 iv. links to on-line information provided by or associated with the
10 sender.

1 8. (Cancelled)

1 9. (Withdrawn) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim 10 wherein
2 A. the step of linking mail piece delivery status information to the user
3 identifiers includes updating the information, and
4 B. the step of providing a listing of mail piece delivery status information
5 includes providing in the list the updated information.

1 10. (Withdrawn) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including the steps
2 of:
3 A. associating respective users with user identifiers;
4 B. associating with the identified users mail pieces directed to or sent by the
5 respective users;
6 C. linking mail piece delivery status information relating to the respective
7 mail pieces to the respective user identifiers, the delivery status
8 information including information that identifies the senders of the
9 respective mail pieces that are directed to the identified users; and
10 D. providing to a given user a listing of the respective mail pieces and the
11 mail piece delivery status information that is linked to the user identifier
12 that corresponds to the given user.

1 11. (Withdrawn) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim 10 wherein
2 the step of linking mail piece delivery status information with the user identifiers includes
3 associating therewith messages from the respective senders.

1 12. (Cancelled).

1 13. (Withdrawn) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim 11 wherein
2 the step of linking mail piece delivery status information to the user identifiers includes
3 associating therewith messages from the respective delivery services.

1 14.-19. (Cancelled).

1 20. (Withdrawn) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including the steps of:

- 2 A. associating respective users with user identifiers;
- 3 B. associating with the identified users respective mail pieces directed to or
4 sent by the respective users;
- 5 C. linking mail piece delivery status information relating to the respective
6 mail pieces to the respective user identifiers, the mail piece delivery status
7 information including the source of a given mail piece; and
- 8 D. providing to a given user a listing of the respective mail pieces associated
9 with the given user and the mail piece delivery status information that is
10 linked to the user identifier that is associated with the given user and
11 further providing a graphical interface connected to notify the given user
12 of the delivery status of the respective mail pieces, the interface being
13 configured to display information concerning the source of a given mail
14 piece.

1 21. (Currently Amended) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces embodied
2 in a computer readable medium including the steps of:

- 3 A. associating respective users with user identifiers;

- 4 B. associating with the respective users mail pieces directed to or sent by the
5 respective users;
- 6 C. receiving mail piece delivery status information displayed on a personal
7 web page from one or more mail piece delivery companies and linking the
8 mail piece delivery status information relating to the respective mail
9 pieces to the respective user identifiers that are associated with the users to
10 which the mail pieces are associated;
- 11 D. receiving information displayed on the personal web page concerning the
12 contents of the respective mail pieces from the senders of the respective
13 mail pieces and linking to the delivery status information an attachment
14 consisting of the information concerning the contents of the respective
15 mail pieces; and
- 16 E. providing on said personal web page a graphical interface connected to
17 notify the respective users of the delivery status of the respective mail
18 pieces, the interface being configured to:
- 19 i. provide the mail piece delivery status information that is linked to
20 the user identifiers that are associated with the respective users, and
21 ii. provide to the respective users the information concerning the
22 contents of the respective mail pieces.

- 1 22. (Currently Amended) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces embodied in
2 a computer readable medium including the steps of:
- 3 A. associating respective users with respective user identifiers;
- 4 B. associating with the respective users respective mail pieces directed to or
5 sent by the respective users;
- 6 C. receiving mail piece delivery status information from one or more mail
7 piece delivery companies and displaying said information on a user's
8 personal web site and linking the mail piece delivery status information

- 9 relating to the respective mail pieces to the respective user identifiers that
10 are associated with the users to which the mail pieces are associated;
- 11 | D. receiving on said user's personal web page images of at least a portion of
12 the contents of the respective mail pieces from the respective senders and
13 linking to the delivery status information an attachment consisting of the
14 images of at least a portion of the contents of the respective mail pieces;
15 and
- 16 E. providing to respective users listings of the respective mail pieces and the
17 mail piece delivery status information that are linked to the user identifiers
18 that correspond to the respective users; and
- 19 | F. providing on said personal web page a graphical interface connected to:
20 i. notify the respective users of the delivery status of the associated
21 respective mail pieces;² and
22 ii. provide to the users the images of at least a portion of the contents
23 of the respective mail pieces.

- 1 | 23. (Currently Amended) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces embodied in
2 a computer readable medium including the steps of:
- 3 A. associating respective users with respective user identifiers;
- 4 B. associating with the users respective mail pieces directed to or sent by the
5 respective users;
- 6 C. receiving mail piece delivery status information from respective mail
7 piece delivery companies and linking the mail piece delivery status
8 information relating to the respective mail pieces to the respective user
9 identifiers;²
- 10 D. receiving images of information associated with respective mail pieces
11 from respective senders and linking to the delivery status information an
12 attachment consisting of the images of information associated with
13 | respective mail pieces; ~~and~~

- 14 E. providing to respective users listings of the respective mail pieces and the
15 mail piece delivery status information that are linked to the user identifiers
16 that correspond to the respective users; and
17 F. providing a graphical interface connected to:
18 i. notify the respective users of the delivery status of the associated
19 respective mail pieces; and
20 ii. provide to the users the images of information associated with the
21 respective mail pieces; and
22 iii provide links for the user to senders and sellers allowing the user to
23 perform at least one of: sending or receiving a message, receiving or
24 paying a bill, and verifying information based upon a digital
25 signature.
26 .

1 24. (Previously Presented) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim
2 23 in which one or more messages from the senders or the mail delivery companies are
3 received and the interface is further configured to provide the one or more messages
4 associated with the respective mail pieces.

1 25 (Withdrawn) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including the steps of:
2 A. associating respective users with respective user identifiers;
3 B. associating with the identified users respective mail pieces directed to or
4 sent by the respective users;
5 C. linking mail piece delivery status information relating to the associated
6 respective mail pieces to the respective user identifiers, the mail piece
7 delivery status information including one or more links to information
8 provided by senders of the respective mail pieces; and
9 D. providing to a given user a listing of the associated respective mail pieces
10 and the mail piece delivery status information that is linked to the user
11 identifier that corresponds to the given user and providing a graphical

12 interface connected to notify the given user of the delivery status of the
13 associated respective mail pieces, the interface being configured to
14 provide one or more links to the information provided by a sender of a
15 given mail piece.

1 26. (Withdrawn) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim 25 wherein
2 the information provided by the sender includes one or more of transaction history,
3 account balance, and payment option information.

1 27. (Cancelled).

1 28. (Currently Amended) Computer-readable memory comprising computer program
2 instructions for use in providing mail piece tracking and tracing, the instructions when
3 executed causing:

- 4 A. one or more servers to:
- 5 i. receive mail piece delivery status information from respective mail
6 delivery companies and link the mail piece delivery status
7 information with user identifiers;
8 ii. receive messages from the senders of the respective mail pieces
9 and link to the delivery status information an attachment consisting
10 of the messages from the senders of the respective mail pieces,
11 iii. produce for a user, a personal web page including listings of the
12 delivery status information for mail pieces directed to the
13 respective users that correspond to the user identifiers; and
14 iv. ~~provide~~ provide in said user's personal web page links to the
15 messages in the listings of the delivery status information; and
- 16 B. one or more browsers to provide to the respective users associated with the
17 user identifiers access to the listings of the delivery status information and
18 the linked messages.

1 29. (Currently Amended) Computer-readable memory comprising computer program
2 instructions for use in providing mail piece tracking and tracing, the instructions when
3 executed causing:

4 A. one or more servers to:

- 5 i. receive mail piece delivery status information from respective mail
6 delivery companies and link the mail piece delivery status
7 information with user identifiers;
8 ii. receive sender transaction information from respective senders of
9 the mail pieces and link the sender transaction information to the
10 delivery status information;
11 iii. produce on a user's personal web page listings of the delivery
12 status information for mail pieces directed to the respective users
13 that correspond to the user identifiers; and
14 iv. associate the links to the transaction information with the listings of
15 the delivery status information on said user's personal web page
16 allowing the user to perform at least one of: sending or receiving a
17 message, receiving or paying a bill, and verifying information based
18 upon a digital signature.

19 .; and

20 B. one or more browsers to provide access to the delivery status information
21 linked to a given user identifier and also to links to the transaction
22 information that associated with the delivery status information.

1 30. (Currently Amended) Computer-readable memory comprising computer program
2 instructions for use in providing mail piece tracking and tracing, the instructions when
3 executed causing:

4 A. one or more servers to:

- 5 i. receive mail piece delivery status information from respective mail
6 delivery companies and link mail piece delivery status information
7 with user identifiers;

- 8 ii. receive information relating to the contents of the respective mail
9 pieces from the respective senders and link to the delivery status
10 information an attachment consisting of the information relating to
11 the contents of the respective mail pieces;
12 iii. produce listings of the mail piece delivery status information for
13 mail pieces directed to the respective users that correspond to the
14 user identifiers; and
15 iv. include in the listings the information relating to the contents of the
16 respective mail pieces; and
17 B. one or more browsers to provide access to the delivery status information
18 linked to a given user identifier and further to provide access to the
19 associated information relating to the contents of the mail pieces.

1 31. (Cancelled).

1 32. (Withdrawn) Computer-readable memory comprising computer program
2 instructions for use in providing mail piece tracking and tracing, the instructions when
3 executed causing:

- 4 A. one or more servers to
5 link mail piece delivery status information with user identifiers, the
6 delivery status information for a given mail piece including
7 i. a sender identifier,
8 ii. a mail type identifier,
9 iii. a delivery service identifier, and
10 iv. related messages from the sender and the delivery service, and
11 v. produce listings of the delivery status information for mail pieces
12 directed to the respective users that correspond to the user
13 identifiers; and
14 B. one or more browsers to provide access to the delivery status information
15 linked to a given user identifier

1 33. (Cancelled).

1 34 (Withdrawn) A method of operating a computer system, the method including the
2 steps of:

- 3 A. associating a given user session with a user identifier;
- 4 B. retaining messages relating to the status of the session at a server and
5 including in each message a message sequence number and an attribute that is
6 associated with the user identifier; and
- 7 C. using the messages to continue the session from a point at which the session
8 last communicated with the server, in response to the user identifier being
9 presented at a node that communicates with the server.

1 35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34 further including a step of maintaining an
2 index of the messages, the index being sorted by the attribute that is associated with the
3 user identifier.

1 36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35 further including:

- 2 A. a step of communicating through the session and providing information
3 relating to a mailing label;
- 4 B. in the step of retaining messages retaining messages that include the
5 information relating to the mailing label;
- 6 C. in the step of continuing the session presenting the retained information
7 relating to the mailing label; and
- 8 D. a step of ending the session by printing the mailing label in accordance
9 with the retained information.

1 37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 36 further including:

- 2 | A. in the step of communicating through the session providing information
3 relating to postage for a mail piece;
- 4 B. in the step of retaining messages retaining messages that include the
5 information relating to the postage;
- 6 C. in the step of continuing the session presenting the retained information
7 relating to the postage; and
- 8 D. in the step of ending the session printing the postage in accordance with the
9 retained information.

1 38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35 further including:

- 2 A. a step of communicating through the session and providing information
3 relating to postage for a mail piece;
- 4 B. in the step of retaining messages retaining messages that include the
5 information relating to the postage;
- 6 C. in the step of continuing the session presenting the retained information
7 relating to the postage; and
- 8 D. a step of ending the session by printing the postage in accordance with the
9 retained information.

1 39. (Withdrawn) A method of operating a computer network including the steps of:

- 2 A. associating a user session with a user identifier that is presented to gain
3 access to information maintained by the network from a first node that
4 communicates with the network;
- 5 B. retaining a queue of messages relating to the user session and associating
6 the queue with the user identifier; and
- 7 C. in response to the user identifier being later presented at the first node or a
8 second node that communicates over the network, continuing the user
9 session at the first or second node by using the messages to present the

10 session at the point at which the session last communicated with the
11 server.

1 40. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 36 wherein the step of retaining a queue of
2 messages includes indexing the messages by the user identifier.

1 41. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 37 wherein the step of retaining a queue of
2 messages further includes maintaining the queue at each of a plurality of interconnected
3 nodes, a given one of the interconnected nodes at which the user identifier is provided
4 presenting the user session at the point at which the session last communicated with the
5 server.

1 42. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38 further including conducting the user
2 session by communicating over the network using a browser or a client executable.

1 43. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 37 wherein the step of presenting the user
2 identifier includes providing a machine-readable code to a scanner that communicates
3 with the node.

1 44. (Withdrawn) A method of operating a postal service computer system, the
2 method including the steps of:

- 3 A. associating a given user postal mailing label session with a user identifier;
- 4 B. retaining messages relating to the status of the session at a server and
5 including in each message a message sequence number and an attribute
6 that is associated with the user identifier, the messages further including
7 mailing label information provided through the session; and
- 8 C. using the messages to continue the session from a point at which the
9 session last communicated with the server by presenting the mailing label

10 information provided through the session, in response to the user
11 identifier being presented at a node that communicates with the server.

1 45. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 44 further including a step of maintaining an
2 index of the messages, the index being sorted by the attribute that is associated with the
3 user identifier.

1 46. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45 further including the step of ending the
2 continued session by printing the mailing label in accordance with the retained
3 information.

1 47. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46 further including
2 A. in the step of retaining messages retaining messages that include the
3 information relating to postage;
4 B. in the step of continuing the session presenting the retained
5 information relating to the postage; and
6 C. in the step of ending the session printing the postage in accordance
7 with the retained information.